

Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) - 2009 Meeting Minutes

EMCC Minutes Thursday, January 22, 2009

EMCC Minutes Thursday, February – no meeting

EMCC Minutes Thursday, March – no meeting

EMCC Minutes Thursday, April 23, 2009

EMCC Minutes Thursday, May – no meeting

EMCC Minutes Thursday, June 25, 2009

EMCC Minutes Thursday, July 8 – no meeting

EMCC Minutes Thursday, August – no meeting

EMCC Minutes Thursday, September 24, 2009

EMCC Minutes Thursday, October 22, 2009 – subcommittee

EMCC Minutes Thursday, October 22, 2009

EMCC Minutes Thursday, November 19, 2009 – subcommittee

EMCC Minutes Thursday, December – no meeting



NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
DIRECTOR

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2417
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Emergency Medical Care Committee
Bob Pfohl, Chair/Jim Marugg, Vice-Chair
c/o Emergency Medical Services
6255 Mission Gorge Road
San Diego, CA 92120
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Community Epidemiology
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
HIV, STD and Hepatitis
Immunization
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services
Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing/Border Health
TB Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

MISSION STATEMENT

"As advisor to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system."

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Members Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association
Bull, R.N., Pat – American Red Cross
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics Agencies' Comm.
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Base Hosp. Nurse Coordinators
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Skoglund, R.N., Patty – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Co.

County Staff Present

Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Metz, R.N., Marcy
Pate, R.N., Rebecca
Ray, Leslie
Smith, R.N., Susan

Vacant

Binational EMCC
Emergency Physicians' Society
League of California Cities
Military Agencies
San Diego County Medical Society

Members Absent

Cerny, Barbara – Third District
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Assoc.
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies
Pfohl, Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association
Schroeder, Dave – Fourth District

Guests Present

Collins, R.N., Marissa – Tri-City
Macchione, Director, Nick – Co. HHSA
Mazzola, Thomas – Loma Linda University
Matthews, Chuck – HHSA Co. Public Health
Outlaw, Liz – Sharp Healthcare
Thornton, Tim – Loma Linda University

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Marugg, Vice-Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Katy Green, R.N., to approve the Minutes of November 20, 2008 as submitted. MOTION carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

IV. HHSA FY'S 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Nick Macchione, Director, HHSA, stated he was delighted to attend this EMCC meeting. Mr. Macchione has been with San Diego County for about twelve years and was the former Director of North Coastal and North Inland Regions of HHSA. He stated by listening to the dialogue of this meeting, how noticeable it is that EMS saves lives and makes a difference.

Mr. Macchione noted that currently there is no State budget in effect for 2009-2010. Bob Pfohl, EMCC Chair, attended the meeting in December that Mr. Macchione had with all Advisory Board Chairs. With decreased funding from the State, services may need to be reduced or restructured so therefore, a prioritization of services or programs has to be submitted to the County Board of Supervisors from HHSA. There are hundreds of thousands of people on public assistance, housing assistance, and rental assistance and many of those people may be receiving a reduction in their aid or perhaps nothing at all. Some people will lose their health care coverage and will end up being seen in the emergency room which is more costly. There is a great concern for people with chronic diseases and obtaining their routine care. Why are there patients coming into emergency rooms 15-18 times a year for services is one issue being reviewed for a cost savings. More mental health patients need to be stabilized so they're not using up emergency departments, paramedic and EMS services as much.

Mr. Macchione reminded attendees that HHSA had been through a similar situation before in 2004. He asked for input on what attendees would recommend for any services that could be done in a different way or review creative ways of staffing. All Advisory Boards are being asked the same questions.

Jim Marugg, Vice-Chair, informed attendees that when Bob Pfohl went to the Advisory Board Chairs meeting, the Chairs were given instructions on prioritizing programs such as high, medium and low priorities or eliminating the service. Service levels were also to be categorized as "keep as is" or "reduce/change."

MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Mary Meadows-Pitt, R.N., to approve the following three categories all listed as “High Priority;” and to “keep as is.”

- 1. Management of medical emergency transport systems within County of San Diego: paramedic coordination, surveillance, reporting base hospital coordination.**
- 2. Management of trauma services system for San Diego County.**
- 3. Management of County of San Diego emergency medical response disaster and coordination activities.**

In addition, EMCC recommended investing funds in the Information Technology arena to increase efficiency in providing EMS core functions and meeting EMS regulatory requirements. MOTION carried.

V. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

Flu Season Update: Hospital emergency departments have been busy but not much with flu symptoms. There was an increase in reported flu cases a few weeks ago. On the national level, the isolates have been resistant to Tami-flu so the Center for Disease Control is recommending another anti-viral such as an oral treatment. Hand-washing needs to continue to be emphasized.

Hospital Capacity Plan: The Plan has gone out to the hospitals and the emphasis this year is looking at the entire hospital, rather than just the emergency departments and involving hospital administrations.

Offload Delays: Have been minimal lately. Preventing significant ambulance offload delays is the highest priority this year.

The new Sharp Memorial Hospital: Sharp opened up their new hospital this past week and it is beautiful.

Stroke Update: The criteria for approval to receive acute stroke patients has gone out to the hospitals and County EMS will conduct reviews, probably in early spring, 2009, for those hospitals not certified as a primary stroke center by the Joint Commission.

STEMI System Update: The third quarter report was just presented at the Cardiac Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. Door-to-balloon times of 57-58 minutes are excellent. Some false-positives will be reviewed.

CARES Registry: The CARES (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) Registry, run through Emory University is being reviewed to see if the data collection system can assist with evaluating cardiac arrest care survivability.

Protocols Reviewed: The proposed protocol changes were presented at the Base Station Physicians’ Committee meeting on January 20, 2009 and some revisions were suggested. Some changes up for consideration included adult I.O.’s, blunt trauma, criteria to pronounce patients dead in the field, tourniquets, and the King airway.

POLST (Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment): The Governor signed AB 3000 mandating the POLST form be recognized in California, effective January 1, 2009. The document allows the recording of a patient's resuscitation preference or status, as well as directions for other resuscitative care. The form is completed by the primary physician based on patient preferences and medical indications.

ROC (Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium): The ROC study regarding shock has begun once again with the use of hypertonic saline study for head-injured patients; the patients who are hypotensive have now been excluded from the ROC study. The Cardiac Arrest portion is now starting as well.

VI. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)

EMS Employee Updates: Susan Smith, R.N., will be working on the prehospital side of EMS and is attending many of the EMS meetings to better understand the full scope of the EMS system. LeAnne Lovett-Floom, R.N., is working on the disaster side with the hospitals and the HPP (Hospital Preparedness Program). Two analyst positions have also been filled recently.

State Trauma System: The State Trauma System held a summit in June, 2008 at which five regional care trauma systems were formed throughout the State. San Diego is in the Southeast Region and will work on putting together trauma triage quality improvement, repatriation and trauma funding. The Southeast Region includes San Diego, Imperial, San Bernardino, Mono, Inyo and Riverside Counties. The next annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for San Diego in June, 2009.

Trauma American College of Surgeons: Site visits will be held to comply with a three year cycle certification process for trauma centers. The first hospital visited will be Rady Children's next week.

EMS Commission: The State EMS Commission met in December, 2008 and Dr. Haynes was named EMS Medical Director of the Year for California for 2007.

State of California EMS License Plate: The State EMS Authority has been working on a EMS license plate with the State Department of Motor Vehicles with net proceeds to benefit EMS, health professionals, and the State Environmental License Plate Fund. New sequential plates are \$50 with a \$40 annual renewal fee. Personalized plates are \$90 with a \$70 annual renewal fee. The EMS Authority must first collect 7,500 applications before the DMV will begin issuing the new plates. If the 7,500 application target is not met, all application fees will be refunded for those who applied.

State-wide Pandemic Exercise/Golden Guardian Drill: A state-wide Pandemic exercise will be held on June 18, 2009. There will not be Golden Guardian drill in 2009.

VII. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., at the County's Health Services Complex, Disaster Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS



NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
DIRECTOR

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Members Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association
Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hosp. Nurse Coordinators
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Association
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics' Agencies Comm.
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – Fourth District
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association
Outlaw, Liz – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Counties

County Staff Present

Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Metz, R.N., Marcy
Pate, R.N., Rebecca

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

Members Absent

Cerny, Barbara – Third District
Dipretoro, Scott – American Red Cross
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies
Pfohl, Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association

Guests Present

Fessenden, Mike – American Medical Response
Hildebraut, Gordon – Mercy Air
Kusman, Travis – American Medical Response
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Tri-City
Sonderekei, Dorita – Mercy Air

Vacant

Binational EMCC
Emergency Physicians' Society
League of California Cities
Military Agencies
S.D. Co. Medical Society

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Marugg, Vice-Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

Jake Jacoby, M.D., new County Fourth District EMCC member, was introduced.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Linda Broyles, R.N., to approve the Minutes of January 22, 2009 as submitted. MOTION carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

IV. EMCC PREHOSPITAL/HOSPITAL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT (Jim Marugg)

MOTION made by Wayne Johnson, Seconded by Kelly Forman, R.N., to approve the policies B-325, B-326, B-327 and the EMT-B Optional Skills Competency Verification form as submitted. MOTION carried.

Mr. Johnson thanked Bruce Haynes, M.D., County EMS Medical Director, for including language to assist in selection of appropriate EMT candidates for the optional skills programs, which will make it easier for them to obtain internships and ride-alongs. The EMT will have a certification card that will list optional skills when earned.

V. DIVERSION CAPACITY (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

During the last month, the number of transports increased. Patients requesting a specific facility that had to bypass minimally increased in December, 2008 but is only 2%. Many patients appear to be telemetry patients who are often held in emergency rooms for long periods of time. Sharp Memorial has a 100% telemetry hospital so the patients can go anywhere in the hospital. The flu season has been mild and approximately eight weeks ago the lab isolates peaked, then decreased after that. County EMS receives data from ten hospitals and clinics which has had substantial increases a few days here and there, and in the last two weeks the activity has increased.

An off-load study was completed and will go to the Capacity Task Force for review which meets on May 1, 2009. Susan Smith, R.N., County EMS, talks to the nursing directors at the South Bay hospitals on a daily basis where there are on-going off-load issues. Mr. Johnson added that Alvarado Hospital has gone from an average of two hour off-load delays to approximately 26 minutes.

Travis Kusman, American Medical Response, stated that a new prehospital/emergency department monitoring system in Nevada allows the paramedics to walk-in to the emergency room, enter their unit number, patient's name and provider number into a computer and have the information time-stamped. As soon as the patient is assigned an emergency room bed, the nurse logs the patient in so you see when the patient offloaded.

The system tracks ambulances waiting for emergency room beds and this information is shared among the hospitals so they know how many patients are waiting for how long at each hospital. The program works in conjunction with First Watch.

VI. EMT 2010 PROJECT PRESENTATION (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)

In response to State Assembly Bill 2917, the State EMS Authority is developing regulations regarding changes in the EMT statutes with major provisions in the bill. The State is to initiate a central registry for all EMT's requiring criminal background checks and will allow local EMS agencies to conduct investigations which could lead to certification actions. County EMS submitted comments to the State during the pre-public comment period and the State reconvened the EMT 2010 task force to review comments that were submitted from around the State. A public comment period will be forthcoming soon. Initial certification will rise to \$75 and \$37 for certification renewal effective July 1, 2010. There will also be an increase in the paramedic fees. Live scan fees will be in addition to these fees.

When an out-of-state paramedic or EMT comes to California to certify or re-certify, they will be required to pay the fees for an FBI and a DOJ (Department of Justice) background check.

Regulations for investigations and discipline are currently being developed as well where the local County EMS Medical Director will still have the certification authority. A local EMS agency may conduct an investigation but any action on a certification will have to follow the Administrative Practice Law and have an administrative law judge hear the case. Part of the fee the State is collecting will go into the Administrative Law judges fund pool, and then any agencies that have had to go through the administrative law procedure submit claims for reimbursement.

As more information comes available it will be shared with the committee. A public comment period is tentatively scheduled for mid-June.

VII. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

There was a report in the newspaper this week about isolates of swine flu in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Soon after, precautions for infection control were sent out to the community. This particular strain of Swine flu can be transmitted from human to human. Seven days is the incubation period if somebody's known to be exposed or becomes ill.

There is a concern from the EMT Fire Chiefs Subcommittee that hospitals are withholding information from prehospital agencies on patients as a result of high-profile patient medical records that were compromised. These events led to the rapid passage of two bills in the State Legislature that took effect January 1, 2009 that placed severe sanctions on hospitals and their employees if they relay private medical information. Fines can be up to \$250,000 and a medical professional could lose his/her license.

The County's Sexual Assault Examiners want evidence of sexually assaulted victims to be preserved as long as possible while the victims are in the emergency department.

The annual protocols are finished and will take effect July 1, 2009 with the assistance of Ms. Smith who is also assisting in the education component.

The Cardiac System is continuing to work well with the median door-to-balloon time on activated cases from the field between 57-58 minutes.

VIII. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)

Certification/re-certification hours at County EMS have been reduced due to administrative re-structuring. Days/hours of operation are now Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and closed on Fridays.

The State-wide pandemic influenza exercise is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2009. Hospitals and clinics are participating and the County's Medical Operations Center (MOC) will be activated.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., at the County's Health Services Complex, Departmental Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS



NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
DIRECTOR

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Members Present

Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Co's.
Cerny, Barbara – Third District
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics Agencies' Comm.
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – Fourth District
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Base Hosp. Nurse Coordinators
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association
Scott, Chief Mike – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association

Vacant

Binational EMCC
Emergency Physicians' Society
League of California Cities
Military Agencies
S.D. County Medical Society

Members Absent

Dipretoro, Scott – American Red Cross
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Assoc.
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies

Guests Present

Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Med. Services Enterprise

County Staff Present

Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Pate, R.N., Rebecca

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Marugg, Vice-Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Bruce Fried, to approve the Minutes of April 23, 2009 as submitted. MOTION carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

IV. EMCC PREHOSPITAL/HOSPITAL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT (Jim Marugg)

Some additional revisions were suggested to policies P-806 and P-807. Rebecca Pate, R.N., County EMS, will take the suggested revisions and incorporate them and re-send them out for final review. **MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Chief Mike Scott, to approve policies P-806 and P-807 with the suggested revisions. MOTION carried.**

V. H1N1 INFLUENZA UPDATE (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

A decrease in reported H1N1 cases and flu viruses in general had been seen until recently, with a young woman dying at Palomar Medical Center from H1N1 this past week. There have been approximately 330 documented H1N1 cases in the State of California with sixteen deaths throughout the State. The deaths have been people that had high risk factors, in all age groups. County EMS activated its' Medical Operations Center (MOC) performing logistics and information for County Epidemiology and Disease Control during the outbreak. As time passed with the H1N1, guidelines with information about the flu and on personal protective equipment and decontamination were disseminated to try to prevent transmission of the infection to health care workers in the field. Zofran was added due to the high incidence of vomiting with H1N1. County EMS took receipt of a shipment from the regional Strategic National Stockpile for the first time acquiring a large supply of Tamiflu. Tamiflu was distributed to hospitals, clinics and university health services and a plan was devised to have Tamiflu available in certain San Diego County pharmacy locations so physicians could write prescriptions for it.

A follow-up debriefing was held on June 18, 2009 with input from various stakeholders (fire, law, hospitals, clinics, military, etc.) to discuss the H1N1 experience. This was well attended and many good ideas were presented. Vaccinations were also discussed. The preliminary vaccine for H1N1 has been developed and may be available by autumn, 2009.

The Centers for Disease Control released a brief report this past week on health care workers who were found to have the H1N1 virus and discovered that less than 50% of the ones with the disease were infected at work. Many workers were infected in outpatient settings where there was very little use of personal protective equipment.

VI. EMT 2010 UPDATE (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

County EMS staff attended a meeting in Los Angeles yesterday (June 24, 2009) to learn more about the EMT 2010 Project. FBI and DOJ criminal background checks will be conducted on new EMT's as of July 1, 2010 and new procedures for discipline will be developed. The State sent out a pre-public comment draft to EMS agencies concerning the regulations. The State of California will be the primary recipient of subsequent arrest notifications with the County as back-up. The suggested changes are accessible on the State EMSA website.

VII. STROKE SYSTEM OF CARE (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

Developing a more organized system of care for stroke in San Diego County has been on-going. Beginning July 1, 2009, if the person is an acute stroke patient in the field with an onset of symptoms three hours or less, the patient will go to a hospital that has been approved by the County to be a Stroke Receiving Center. Hospitals not seeking Joint Commission Stroke Certification are being reviewed to determine if they meet criteria regarding stroke care. Those approved, in addition to those already Joint Commission certified, will be identified to receive acute stroke patients. Currently fifteen hospitals will be participating and another may be added. Dr. Haynes will be sending out a letter to the base hospitals with further information.

VIII. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

The new County EMS protocols take effect July 1, 2009.

EMCC previously approved the EMT Optional Scope of Practice policies and one of the training programs seeking approval to teach the optional skills is close to being finalized. The program is focused on use in rural areas such as Borrego Springs and Mt. Laguna.

There has been a recent glitch with paramedic re-licensure with the State as a result of confusion about a current list of approved continuing education providers. Some paramedics were informed they were denied license renewal. The issue was thought to be resolved a couple of weeks ago but re-surfaced again, and is being addressed.

IX. EMS STAFF REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

The Hospital Capacity Task Force will be re-convening a meeting this date. The group meets every year prior to the flu season but has met more often the last couple of years. The group will be reviewing the First Watch pilot program.

The Community Health Statistics Unit of EMS has recently released reports on suicide, healthy people and senior health. The Unit will be doing a childhood injury report and emergency department volumes and characteristics of emergency departments report. Reports from this group are available on the County EMS website.

X. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., at the County's Health Services Complex, Departmental Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS



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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Members Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Co.'s
Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hosp. Nurse Coordinators
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Association
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics Agencies Comm.
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – Fourth District
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies
Pfohl, Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association

Vacant

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League of California Cities
Military Agencies
S.D. Co. Medical Society

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

Members Absent

Cerny, Barbara – Third District
Dipretoro, Scott – American Red Cross

Guests Present

Brown, Mark – Nat. Polytechnic College Science
Bull, R.N., Pat – American Red Cross
Endicott, Darcey – Military Agencies
Foeher, Rick – EMSTA College
Francis, R.N., Allen – State of CA Corrections/Rehab
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Medical Services Enterprise
Kusman, Travis – American Medical Response
Martin, Holly – American Red Cross
Smart, Brian – West Med College

County Staff Present

Flores, Carlos
Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Metz, R.N., Chief, Marcy
Smith, R.N., Susan

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Pfohl, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

Darcey Endicott, representing the Military Agencies, was welcomed to her first EMCC meeting.

Attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Chief Gary Fisher, to approve the Minutes of June 25, 2009 as submitted. MOTION carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

Rick Foehr, EMSTA College, stated that his school is the only private accredited paramedic training agency in San Diego County. As EMSTA College went through the process of paramedic training program approval, they received an agreement from hospitals and ALS agencies, with the exception of four ALS agencies for paramedic internship. The County agreed to approve EMSTA College's program as long as EMSTA continued to pursue the other agencies. Mr. Foehr stated that the number of available paramedic internship slots, in both hospitals and agencies, is extremely limited in San Diego County.

IV. TRAUMA SYSTEM 25TH ANNIVERSARY (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)

The 25th anniversary of the San Diego County trauma system occurred this month and festivities have included a proclamation from the County Board of Supervisors presented to the trauma hospitals on September 15, 2009. A 25-minute video premiered at Scripps La Jolla regarding the trauma system. The trauma nurse coordinators applied for a grant through County Television Network for this and a shorter eight minute clip was developed. The shorter clip was shown to EMCC attendees. The trauma system is a successful public/private partnership and San Diego's trauma system is one that is acknowledged internationally for excellence.

Chairperson Bob Pfohl added that once the system went into place, paramedics quickly saw the benefits of delivering appropriate patients to trauma hospitals and embraced the system.

V. EMT 2010 (Carlos Flores)

The State is in the process of making changes to Title 22 regarding regulations for EMT's. San Diego County EMS has been developing policies to match the changes from the State to go into effect July 1, 2010. Background checks will include FBI checks. There has been some informational technology difficulties with the State but hopefully access to the State registry will become easier with the new system. The EMT-Intermediate classification will no longer be used; EMT-Advanced will be authorized

when the regulations take effect. Paramedics will no longer be called EMT-Paramedics, only Paramedics. A fee of \$75 will occur for EMT's only if they have not been live-scanned. If previously live-scanned it must be one that clears them through the Department of Justice and provides a subsequent arrest notification. The re-certification fee for EMT's will be \$37, not including the County fees, but if not background checked, they will have to pay the full \$75. The State has sent the proposed changes out for public review and they will go before the State EMS Commission in December, 2009.

VI. CEMSIS (California EMS Information System) (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)

The CEMSIS system is a priority project for EMS which is mandated by the State to go into effect by July 1, 2009. Meetings have been going on for several years to develop the data set and data dictionary to send that out to local agencies which will develop into both a state-wide and national data base. County EMS staff have been working with the vendor to make CEMSIS compliant with the Quality Assurance Network (QCS). Super-users will test the system in October, 2009 and Susan Smith, R.N., County EMS, is currently reviewing the elements and the data base. Ms. Metz thanked those who have agreed to test the system as super-users. There will be state-wide CEMSIS training on September 28, 2009 in San Diego.

VII. H1N1 UPDATE (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

As of September 23, 2009, there were 1,214 reported H1N1 cases but the figure could be misleading as testing is only being done in hospitals when the patient has been admitted to the intensive care units. In San Diego County there have been 22 deaths with a range in age of four months to 89 years. The average age of death is 47 years. Reports coming from the southern hemisphere indicate that the virus is not mutating and there has been no change in the virus. The State of California recently changed the definition of a suspected case; it is now somebody under the age of 60 with a fever over 100 degrees with a new onset of cough. Good news has been coming out that indicates only one shot will be required for H1N1 and one for the seasonal flu for adults.

Measures to prevent getting the flu: stay away from those who are ill, frequent hand washing, using alcohol cleansers in the field, cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid touching your face and mouth. Health care workers with influenza-like illnesses should be excluded from work for seven days after symptom onset or until the resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer. This is intended to protect patients and fellow employees from contracting influenza.

If an EMT or paramedic is around a patient that appears to have H1N1, they are to use a surgical mask on the patient and themselves, and depending on the patient, use a gown, gloves and eye shield if necessary. For higher risk procedures such as intubation, use an N-95 mask. Cal-OSHA regulations mandates aerosol protection so the N-95 mask should be used.

A survey is being conducted at this time of field providers to ascertain how many masks they possess and to see if there's problems with fit-testing. County Public Health is holding meetings around the community with private sectors to get the word out regarding H1N1.

Sharon Carlson, R.N., Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties, added that hospitals have a shortage of N-95 masks, but through the Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) and H1N1 grants, orders are being submitted next week for more.

Dr. Haynes stated that some helpful information on re-using masks is available on the Cal-OSHA and State websites.

VIII. PARAMEDIC TRAINING (Wayne Johnson, S.D. Medical Services Enterprise)

Wayne Johnson, President of the San Diego County Ambulance Association, thanked EMCC for placing this item on the agenda. Mr. Johnson explained that beginning in the early 1970's, only one paramedic training agency existed in San Diego County. Several EMT training agencies through the community colleges and a regional occupational program existed at one time or another later, as well as one through UCSD Extension which changed names several times. Those all disappeared and Palomar and Southwestern Colleges became the training agencies for San Diego County.

Currently there is a different hierarchy with ALS first responders coupled with the advent of different aspects of competition through paramedic training throughout the State, so there are more training locations. In the last year and one-half, three more training agencies have come into fruition. If a program has an established training agency somewhere else in the State, and they want to begin operations in San Diego County, there's no local jurisdiction. To begin in the system today, programs need to have agreements from hospitals for clinical internship and from ALS agencies for field internship.

Currently, San Diego Medical Services Enterprises experiences constant training. At a recent gurney training event with 25 ambulances present, only two ambulances did not have either an EMT or paramedic intern on board being trained or others doing a ride-along.

MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Dan Graham, to forward this issue of Paramedic Training for discussion and review to the EMCC Education and Research Subcommittee, Chaired by Bruce Fried. MOTION carried.

(Chairperson Bob Pfohl excused himself from this meeting at this time and Vice-Chair Jim Marugg assumed the Chair.)

IX. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

Rebecca Pate, R.N., County EMS staff, being in the Navy Reserve was recently deployed and is currently serving in Afghanistan. Please refer any questions anyone may have to either Susan Smith, Carlos Flores, Ms. Metz or Dr. Haynes in her absence.

The Capacity Task Force met recently and is drafting some recommendations for changes to the Plan to be effective July 1, 2010.

The Stroke system which began operations July 1, 2009, appears to be running well and no complaints have been received from the hospitals accepting stroke patients. The time period for identifying a stroke patient with symptom onset in the previous three hours has been bumped up to three and-one-half to four hours should hospitals desire to modify that.

X. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)

A board letter will be coming forth for approval at either the October 22nd or November 19th EMCC meeting for a spare wheel exemption for agencies that qualify and have requested this status.

A representative from County HHSA will attend either the October 22nd or November 19th EMCC meeting to brief EMCC members information on the Health Strategy Agenda, a vision moving forward into the future to 2020.

There will be an Overcrowding Summit on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 presented by the Emergency Medical Oversight Committee (EMOC) at Scripps La Jolla.

XI. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., at the County's Health Services Complex, Departmental Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS



NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
DIRECTOR

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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Emergency Medical Care Committee
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c/o Emergency Medical Services
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Community Epidemiology
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
HIV, STD and Hepatitis
Immunization
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services
Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing/Border Health
TB Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

MISSION STATEMENT

"As advisor to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system."

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Members Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association
Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Association
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedic Agencies' Committee
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Martin, Holly – American Red Cross
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Pfohl, Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association
Salazar, Sgt. Stan – Law Enforcement Agencies

Vacant

Binational EMCC
Emergency Physicians' Society
League of California Cities
S.D. Co. Medical Society

Members Absent

Cerny, Barbara – Third District
Endicott, Darcey – Military Agencies
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – Fourth District
Skoglund, R.N., Patty – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imp. Co.

Guests Present

Foehr, Rick – EMSTA College
Francis, R.N., Allen – Calif. Dept. of Corrections
Klingensmith, Todd – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Assoc.
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Tri-City
Poole, Anabel – HHSA Legislative Affairs
Sturak, Craig – HHSA Special Projects

County Staff Present

Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Metz, R.N., Marcy

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Pfohl, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Jim Marugg, Seconded by Wayne Johnson, to approve the Minutes of September 24, 2009 as submitted. MOTION carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

IV. HHSA STRATEGY AGENDA (Anabel Poole/Craig Sturak, County HHSA)

The following are highlighted comments from this presentation of a draft framework given by Anabel Poole and Craig Sturak, County HHSA:

Three behaviors contribute excessively to the cost of health: lack of physical activity, poor nutrition and tobacco use which leads to the four preventable diseases to follow.

Need for Action:

- Four preventable chronic diseases (Cancer, Type 2 Diabetes, Heart Disease/Stroke and Respiratory Conditions) account for over 50% of deaths.
- Direct costs of preventable disease are enormous: \$4.3 billion in San Diego County alone in 2003.
- People with serious mental illness and substance abuse problems die, on average, 25 years earlier.
- The strain on emergency rooms is increasing as people go to emergency rooms to get primary care treatment that they should be receiving through their primary physician. In the County's CMS (County Medical Services) program, one-third of participants were using the emergency room within the past year.

HHSA Strategy Vision

- By the year 2020, the County of San Diego will deliver cost-effective, integrated services that lead to people and communities that are healthy, safe and thriving.
- The County wants to focus on prevention, access and care and treatment.

Guiding Principles

- Cost-effective
- Innovative
- Integrity and Accountability
- Quality Service
- Results and Self-Reliance

Who We Serve

- General Population: 3 million people in San Diego County may benefit from a more coordinated and comprehensive prevention approach.
- At-Risk Population: these will be engaged with early, proven interventions to stop health problems from developing or escalating.
- High-Need Population: these already in the County system who will benefit from assistance to achieve health stability and self-reliance to avoid re-entering the County system.

How Do We Make a Difference?

Through three overarching strategies for each population identified: Prevention, Access and Care and Treatment.

Next Steps

September – October, 2009: Share draft plan with staff.

October, 2009: Share draft plan with advisory boards.

November – December, 2009: Share draft plan with stakeholders.

January, 2010: Compile input.

February – March, 2010: Share final plan internally and externally.

April, 2010: Board of Supervisors

Ms. Poole and Mr. Sturak welcomed suggestions and ideas for the Strategy Agenda for Health.

V. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

Swine Flu Update: Over the past ten days there has been a tremendous increase in the number of patients with fever and respiratory complaints, and respiratory complaints with fever. The County has a variety of surveillance mechanisms in place including visits to emergency rooms and calls to base hospitals; somewhere between 25-30 categories that can be tracked to record increases or decreases. As of October 21, 2009, there were 339 people who were hospitalized and 25 deaths in San Diego County.

New guidelines that went into effect from Cal-OSHA went out October 1, 2009. The suspected criteria now being used by the State is someone less than 60 years of age with new onset of fever and cough or respiratory symptoms and those are the people that dispatching agencies should continue to identify so the crews can get to their protective gear prior to being exposed to the patient. Recommended guidelines were cut back from the total aerosol level protection with N-95 masks. In addition to the gloves, gowns and eye shield as needed, cutting back to droplets was recommended and then the N-95 masks. The swine flu is now considered a novel virus for the first twelve months. N-95 masks have been okayed for more than one use if necessary.

The swine flu vaccine is being manufactured safely in the same manner as any other flu vaccine in the past. Dr. Haynes recommended a web site from the CDC which is answers.flu.gov. No responder should have to be prophylaxed if they're using the precautions as suggested with the gloves, gowns, eye shield and N-95 mask.

EMS has been notifying the County Immunization and Vaccination divisions that more vaccine may be needed for public safety personnel in the field. County EMS is setting aside some vaccine for field personnel.

First swine flu shipments have been delivered to pediatricians and for people who deal with children and more is expected within a week and-a-half.

Some discussions have been held with State Licensing and Certification regarding the use of surge tents being put up in times of a great surge of patients.

Overcrowding Summit: The Overcrowding Summit, initiated by the San Diego Medical Society's Emergency Medical Oversight Committee (EMOC), was a big success. However a representative from State Licensing and Certification was scheduled to attend and make a presentation, but wasn't able to do so. Hospital administrators were able to attend and heard the importance of the issues of overwhelmed emergency departments. Public POD's (Points of Dispensing) were discussed for vaccinations.

VI. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)

Employee Promotion: Ms. Metz introduced Pauline Thomas, R.N., who has accepted a temporary assignment to a higher classification in the absence of Rebecca Pate, R.N., who was deployed to Afghanistan in the Navy Reserve until some time in summer, 2010. Some projects Ms. Thomas will be working on are EMT 2010 and the Ambulance Ordinance.

Health Services Capacity Task Force Plan: The Health Services Capacity Plan has been sent out to the community for review with some recommendations for revisions and will be finalized by Wilma Wooten, M.D., County Public Health Officer, this week, then disseminated to the community by the end of October, 2009.

Jury Duty: Every year the Public Health Officer sends a letter to the Jury Commissioner requesting postponement from jury duty for health care workers. This year a phone call from the Jury Commissioner was received so County EMS staff is drafting a letter to go out to the health care community explaining that if you receive a jury duty summons during the flu season, workers can request two postponements in one year.

EMT 2010: A fifteen day public comment period began on October 21, 2009 on EMT 2010 which can be accessed through the State EMSA website and will be the final opportunity for public comment. It will go before the State EMS Commission in December, 2009 and implementation date is scheduled for July 1, 2010.

CEMSIS: The CEMSIS (California EMS Information System) will also go into effect on July 1, 2009.

VII. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., at the County's Health Services Complex, Departmental Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego but later changed to 1700 Pacific Highway, Room 309, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

for Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS



NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
DIRECTOR

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

County of San Diego

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Emergency Medical Care Committee
Education and Research Subcommittee
Bruce Fried, Chair/Melody Dotson, R.N., Vice-Chair
c/o Emergency Medical Services
6255 Mission Gorge Road
San Diego, CA 92120
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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE Education/Research Subcommittee Minutes Thursday, October 22, 2009

Members Present

Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hospital Nurse Coord.
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Pfohl, Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association

County Staff Present

Flores, Carlos
Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Metz, R.N., Chief, Marcy
Thomas, R.N., Pauline

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

Guests Present

Balderson, Kristi – NCTI
Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses Assoc.
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Distr. Assoc.
Foehr, Rick – EMSTA College
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Co. Ambulance Assoc.
Klingensmith, Todd – S.D. Co. Param. Assoc.
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Base Hosp. Nurse Co.
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Ochs, R.N., Ginger – San Diego Fire Rescue
Saner, Dan – San Diego Fire Rescue
Scott, R.N., Chris – San Diego Fire Rescue
Stonecipher, R.N., Joanne – Southwestern Coll.
Workman, R.N., Debi – Palomar College

I. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Carlos Flores, County EMS, brought the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

MOTION made by Melody Dotson, R.N., Seconded by Katy Green, R.N., to appoint Bruce Fried as Chair and Bob Pfohl as Vice-Chair. MOTION carried.

II. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Bruce Fried called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

III. PARAMEDIC TRAINING

Chairperson Bruce Fried explained that the topic of Paramedic Training was brought up at the September 24, 2009 EMCC meeting by Rick Foehr, EMSTA College and then again by Wayne Johnson, President, San Diego County Ambulance Association at the EMCC meeting of October 22, 2009.

Chairperson Fried stated that the subcommittee could either go ahead and let individuals speak in an effort to determine what EMCC Education/Research should focus on and assist with any issues that exist in the County at this time regarding paramedic training. Carlos Flores, County EMS, stated that recently a new training program opened in San Diego County but at this time had not met all the application criteria and are not approved at this time. Mr. Flores will be meeting with that program in a few days.

Currently a large number of paramedic and EMT interns participate in ride alongs and at hospital emergency rooms which has impacted these systems tremendously. Also impacting San Diego County is the fact that other interns come in other areas in the State and Country trying to do their internships in San Diego County which further increases the impact on the local agencies and hospitals.

Mr. Johnson, representing San Diego Medical Services Enterprise, one of the largest agencies in the County, stated that there are a few areas that need to be addressed regarding the placement of the students. He added that an additional issue is that there seems to be a dichotomy in how both private and public ambulance agencies in the County treat the different schools. Some schools differ as far as prerequisites to get into paramedic school; most require students having some experience as an EMT. Those schools that don't require students to have any EMT experience prior to entering paramedic school put another indirect burden on the agencies when people come for internship and have to be given instructions on basic things such as backboards and stretchers.

Mr. Flores stated that the County must follow Title XXII State regulations when reviewing applications for new training programs. He added that County EMS approves programs once they have met the requirements and agree to follow established policies.

Rick Foehr, EMSTA College, stated that a new law, Assembly Bill 48 goes into effect on January 1, 2010 and is already signed by the Governor, which states that satellite schools can be no more than 50 miles from their main campus.

Karen Majerczak, R.N., Tri-City, stated that sometimes Tri-City's emergency room is overwhelmed by nursing students from various nursing schools in addition to paramedic interns, at times with every nurse working with a student intern.

Chief Gary Fisher, Vista Fire, stated that his agency is inundated with interns as well.

Sometimes burn-out occurs for regular agency employees as the training requires extra time and attention.

Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief, County EMS, stated that the County does have MOA's (Memorandum of Agreements) with ALS agencies which state that the agencies will participate in training. As long as agencies demonstrate to the County they did participate in training, they meet the requirements, that is all that is required in the MOA. The MOA's are reviewed every two years.

County policies and procedures are reviewed every three years. Policies P-300, P-301 and P-302 are related to paramedic training; B-351 is EMT training.

Suggestions/Actions

- It was suggested that researching what goes on in other California counties would be helpful.
- Putting a needs assessment into place as part of a County policy with the consensus of the County Paramedic Agencies Committee would be helpful.
- Joanne Stonecipher, R.N., Southwestern College, stated that adding more students to her classes would be acceptable as long as there are preceptors available. Currently Southwestern and Palomar Colleges are limited to 24 students per class.
- It was suggested to have a clearinghouse for processing the students to do their internships.
- Consensus was reached to send out policies P-300, P-301 and P-302 for review by the EMCC Education/Research subcommittee and discuss at the next meeting of Thursday, November 19, 2009.
- Debi Workman, R.N., Palomar College, suggested that the training agencies are working towards becoming more of a formal group and would eventually like to have a seat on the EMCC. Ms. Metz stated that that would require a change in the EMCC Bylaws and a Board Letter through EMCC going to the County Board of Supervisors for approval. **ACTION: Place on EMCC agenda as discussion item for next meeting.**
- **ACTION: Ms. Workman requested bringing back policies P-300, P-301 and P-302 along with the pertinent regulations and accreditation standards for review at the next EMCC Education/Research meeting of November 19, 2009. MOTION made by Mr. Johnson, Seconded by Bob Pfohl, to add that when reviewing the policies, incorporating language to facilitate training to look at the training method as far as distribution and availability with the County, not only for the paramedics but include the EMT training policy as well. MOTION carried.**

- **Discussion ensued on which EMCC subcommittee should review the policies as normally the policies are reviewed by Prehospital/Hospital. ACTION: Ms. Metz will check into the routine process.**

IV. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2009 at approximately 10:00 a.m., following the regular EMCC meeting that morning at the County Health Services Askew Building, 1700 Pacific Highway, Room 309, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS



NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
DIRECTOR

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Education/Research Subcommittee

Minutes

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Members Present

Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Co.
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Green, R.N., Katy – First District

County Staff Present

Smith, R.N., Susan
Thomas, R.N., Pauline

Guests Present

Balderson, Kristi – NCTI
Foehr, Rick – EMSTA College
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Med. Serv. Enterprise
Klingensmith, Todd – EMSTA College
Kjartanson, Mary – Miramar College
Saner, Dan – San Diego Fire Rescue
Stonecipher, R.N., Joanne – Southwestern Coll.
Workman, R.N., Debi – Palomar College

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce Fried, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

MOTION made by Katy Green, R.N., Seconded by Sharon Carlson, R.N., to approve the Minutes of October 22, 2009. MOTION carried.

II. REVIEW OF POLICIES P-300, P-301, P-301 with attachment, P-302, B-351, B-351-A, B-351-B AND B-351-C

ACTION: The following policies P-300, P-301, P-301 with attachment and P-302 were reviewed and suggested revisions were brought forward.

Policies B-351, B-351-A, B and C had no changes.

III. REVIEW OF REGULATIONS AND ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Joanne Stonecipher, R.N., Southwestern College, stated that according to State Title 22, Chapter 9, regulations for paramedic training agencies, the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) is an advisory board to the County Board of Supervisors, and, as such, the County has the authority to establish policies to be in compliance with State regulations. She added that the policies are much clearer for base hospitals as opposed to training agencies.

Bruce Fried, Chair, stated that there is a new State law going into effect on January 1, 2010 which will require all EMT's to have at least six months experience prior to attending paramedic school. County EMS policy already has this requirement in place.

When EMT's and paramedics come from other counties or states, they need to meet all the requirements of San Diego County. It was suggested that the County make a list of what the pre-determined standards are.

IV. FUTURE STEPS

The training agencies will re-work the P policies and bring back at the next EMCC Education Research subcommittee meeting of Thursday, January 28, 2010.

V. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2010 at approximately 10:00 a.m., following the regular 9:00 a.m. EMCC meeting that morning at the County Health Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans Street, Departmental Operations Room, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS